

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 28, 2003 (Paper No. 19). Claims 1 to 35, 37 to 40, 42, 44 to 47, 49 and 51 to 80 are currently in the application, with Claims 1 to 15, 25 to 35 and 51 to 78 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 16, 20, 24, 79 and 80 are the independent claims currently under consideration. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 16 to 24, 79 and 80 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,982,928 (Shimada) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,235,654 (Anderson); and Claims 37 to 40, 42, 44 to 47 and 49 were rejected under § 103(a) over Shimada in view of Japan 58-182956 (Kunio) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,848,187 (Bricklin). Applicant has considered the Examiner's comment together with the applied references and respectfully submits that the claims currently under consideration are patentably distinguishable over the applied references for at least the following reasons.

The present invention concerns performing character recognition of image data obtained by scanning a manuscript. According to the invention, a manuscript ID indicating information for identification of the scanned manuscript is recognized at a terminal from a manuscript ID image contained in the obtained image data and sent to a central control unit. The central control unit obtains an information of character recognizing condition based on the received manuscript ID and transmits the information of character recognizing condition to the terminal for performing character recognition of the image data. In this manner, the terminal can perform character recognition using an optimal condition obtained by the central control unit based on the manuscript ID.

With reference to particular claim language, independent Claims 16, 20 and 24 concern a communication system that includes a terminal and a central control unit. Image data of a manuscript is obtained by scanning the manuscript, where the image data includes a manuscript ID image. The manuscript ID image included in the image data is recognized and a manuscript ID is obtained as the recognition result of the manuscript ID image. The manuscript ID indicates information for an identification of the manuscript. The obtained manuscript ID is transmitted from the terminal to the central control unit. The central control unit obtains an information of character recognizing condition based on the manuscript ID, where the information of character recognizing condition includes positional information of recognition areas of the image data. A control signal including the information of character recognizing condition is transmitted from the central control unit to the terminal. Character images included in the image data are recognized in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition included with the control signal.

Independent Claim 79 concerns a terminal that performs communication with a central control apparatus. The terminal obtains image data of a manuscript by scanning the manuscript, where the image data includes a manuscript ID image. The manuscript ID image included in the image data is recognized and a manuscript ID is obtained as the recognition result of the manuscript ID image, where the manuscript ID indicates information for an identification of the manuscript. The obtained manuscript ID is transmitted to the central control apparatus. A control signal is received from the central control apparatus, the control signal including an information of character recognizing condition of the manuscript determined by the central control apparatus based on the

manuscript ID. The information of character recognizing condition includes positional information of recognition areas of the image data. Character recognition of character images included in the image data is performed in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition included with the control signal.

Independent Claim 80 concerns a central control apparatus that performs communication with a terminal. A manuscript ID transmitted from the terminal, wherein the manuscript ID is obtained by the terminal by recognizing a manuscript ID image included in image data obtained by scanning a manuscript. An information of character recognizing condition is obtained based on the received manuscript ID, the information of character recognizing condition including positional information of recognition areas of the image data. A control signal including the obtained information of character recognizing condition is transmitted to the terminal. The terminal performs character recognition of character images included in the image data in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition included in the transmitted control signal.

The applied references are not seen to disclose or suggest the foregoing features of the present invention. In particular, the applied references are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of transmitting a manuscript ID to a central control unit, receiving an information of character recognizing condition obtained by the central control unit based on the manuscript ID, and performing character recognition in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition.

Shimada concerns a system for performing character recognition of handwritten data. As described in Shimada, handwritten data is input at a terminal and the

handwritten data is then transmitted to a host terminal via a network. In this regard, the system in Shimada operates in a different manner from the present invention since the present invention transmits an obtained manuscript ID to a central control unit instead of the manuscript image data itself.

The Office Action appears to contend that the terminal ID or describer name discussed in Shimada corresponds with the manuscript ID of the present invention.

Applicant submits that neither the terminal ID nor the describer name are seen to be obtained as a recognition result of recognizing scanned image data. Furthermore, neither the terminal ID nor the describer name are seen to indicate information for identifying a manuscript. Rather, the terminal ID and describer name are seen to be associated with the originating terminal.

As set forth above, Shimada is not seen to disclose or suggest the feature of a manuscript ID obtained as a result of recognizing scanned image data, let alone transmitting a manuscript ID to a central control unit. Therefore, Shimada is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of transmitting a manuscript ID to a central control unit, receiving an information of character recognizing condition obtained by the central control unit based on the manuscript ID, and performing character recognition in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition.

Anderson is not understood to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Shimada. Anderson concerns a system for processing scanned images of document forms. The system in Anderson is understood to disclose workstations performing character recognition for scanned images of document forms and

transmitting the recognition results to a host processor for further processing. However, Anderson is not understood to transmit a manuscript ID to the host processor and obtain an information of character recognizing condition from the host processor based on the manuscript ID to be used in performing character. Rather, Anderson is understood only to transmit the character recognition result to the host processor. Therefore, Anderson, either alone or in combination with Shimada, is not understood to disclose or suggest at least the features of transmitting a manuscript ID to a central control unit, receiving an information of character recognizing condition obtained by the central control unit based on the manuscript ID, and performing character recognition in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition.

Kunio and Bricklin, which were applied in the rejection of certain dependent claims, are not understood to disclose or suggest anything to remedy the foregoing deficiencies of Shimada and Anderson. In particular, neither Kunio nor Bricklin, either alone or in combination with Shimada and Anderson, are understood to disclose or suggest at least the features of transmitting a manuscript ID to a central control unit, receiving an information of character recognizing condition obtained by the central control unit based on the manuscript ID, and performing character recognition in accordance with the information of character recognizing condition.

Accordingly, independent Claims 16, 20, 24, 79 and 80 are believed to be allowable over the applied references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejections of Claims 16, 20, 24, 79 and 80 are respectfully requested.

The other claims under consideration in the application are dependent from the independent claims discussed above and therefore are believed to be patentable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the claims currently under consideration are believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



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